

Message Text

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S E C R E T BONN 14345

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, GW, FR, US
SUBJECT: US/EUROPEAN RELATIONS: FRANCO-GERMAN TALKS
IN PARIS

1. FONOFF POLITICAL DIRECTOR VAN WELL BRIEFED THE
AMBASSADOR OCT 3 ON HIS OCT 1 MEETING WITH FRENCH
FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT IN PARIS. VAN WELL SAID HE
HAD INFORMED JOBERT ON THE CHANCELLOR'S SEPT 29
TALKS WITH THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY IN
WASHINGTON, EXPRESSING THE JUDGMENT THTHAT THE US
AFTER SOME QUALMS WAS NOW SATISFIED WITH THE PROCE-
DURES FOR THE US/EC DIALOGUE BUT WISHED TO FLESH
OUT THE DECLARATION. VAN WELL VOICED GERMAN VIEW
THAT THE SEPT 29 US/EC MEETING IN NEW YORK HAD BEEN
A GOOD AUGURY FOR THIS DECLARATION AND THAT THE KEY
WAS NOW TO ELABORATE A SATISFACTORY NATO SCENARIO.
IN THIS CONNECTION, VAN W WELL HANDED JOBERT A
PERSONAL LETTER FROM CHANCELLOR BRANDT TO PRESIDENT
POMPIDOU SUGGESTING THAT THE FRENCH MIGHT TAKE THE
INITIATIVE OF INVITING THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENTS AND
THEIR FOREIGN MINISTERS TO PARIS FOR THE NATO MEETING
WITH THE PRESIDENT. VAN WELL SAID THIS IDEA WAS A
PERSONAL ONE ON THE GERMAN SIDE BUT, SHOULD THE
FRENCH MAKE THIS GESTURE HE WAS FAIRLY SURE THAT IT
WOULD MEET WITH A GOOD RESPONSE FROM THE AMERICAN
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PRESIDENT.

2. VAN WELL SAID HE ALSO EMPHASIZED TO JOBERT THAT
PRESIDENT NIXON HELD THE FIRM VIEW THAT FIXING A

DATE FOR HIS EUROPEAN TRIP WOULD HAVE TO BE TIED TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF SUBSTANTIVE RESULTS, AND THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD REVIEW THE MATTER AGAIN AFTER THE SECRETARY RETURNED FROM EUROPE AND CONCLUSION OF OCT 18 US/EC MEETING IN COPENHAGEN. FINALLY, VAN WELL TOLD JOBERT OF THE SECRETARY'S INTENTION TO AUTHORIZE PRESENTATION OF THE US POSITION ON A NATO DECLARATION THIS WEEK OR EARLY NEXT WEEK.

3. ACCORDING TO VAN WELL, JOBERT REPLIED BY TERMING BRANDT'S LETTER TO POMPIDOU "CONSTRUCTIVE" AND BY SAYING THAT HE HAD, OF COURSE, LEFT AN ANSWER TO THE SPECIFIC POINT OF A FRENCH SUMMIT INVITATION TO PRESIDENT POMPIDOU. JOBERT ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT IN HIS TALK WITH THE SECRETARY IN NEW YORK, HE HAD GAINED THE IMPRESSION THAT FRENCH REPRESENTATION AT NATO BY PRIME MINISTER MESSMER MIGHT SUFFICE FOR THE US.

4. VAN WELL SAID HE WISHED TO EMPHASIZE TO THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE WAS NOT "EXUDING HOPE" THAT POMPIDOU ACTUALLY WOULD INVITE THE OTHER HEADS OF GOVERNMENT TO PARIS NATO SUMMIT MEETING AS THIS WOULD CONSTITUTE A "TREMENDOUS FRENCH ENDORSEMENT OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE." VAN WELL SAID THE CHANCELLOR ALSO SHARED THIS CAUTIOUS ESTIMATES.

5. AS TO THE DATE OF THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT, VAN WELL SAID HE TOLD JOBERT THAT HE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THERE WAS A SLIGHT US TENDENCY TO MOVE TOWARD THE FEB 15-MARCH 10 RATHER THAN NOVEMBER 15-30 TIME PERIOD; THIS IS BECAUSE A US DECISION ON THE EUROPEAN TRIP WILL NOT BE TAKEN UNTIL LATE OCT AND SUCH VISITS REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE PREPARATION. NONETHELESS, VAN WELL TOLD JOBERT THAT THE CHANCELLOR STILL PREFERRED THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT AT THE
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EARLIER TIME OR, IN ANY CASE, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
HILLENBRAND

SECRET

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